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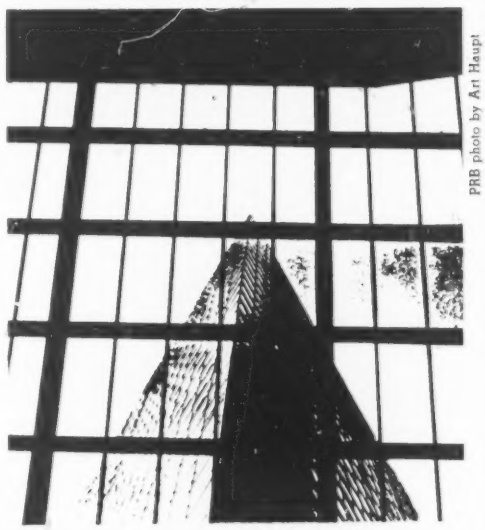

PRB photo by Art Haupt

Not a population pyramid, but Minneapolis's Amfac Hotel, site of the 1984 PAA meeting. See page 2.

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PAA Migrates to Minneapolis

An ominous coating of white left by an unusual spring snowstorm greeted early arivees in Minneapolis for the May 3-5 meeting of the Population Association of America. But in succeeding days the Twin Cities weather turned somewhat springier, and the meeting, held in the Amfac Hotel in downtown Minneapolis, was a climatic and convocational success.

Some 815 attendees, no record but a solid turnout, came from all over, including Europe and Australia—and China, represented by about a dozen young Chinese students (who are studying demography at various U.S. population centers, and seem to have assimilated the ways of U.S. studentdom). During the three days of the conference, participants heard papers, squinted at each others' name tags, collected reprints, slipped in and out of ballrooms during sessions, and caught up on old times.

Business, Family Growth, and Human Nature

If the Minneapolis meeting is any indication, demography has weathered the changing conditions and funding problems of the recent past. The implacable trend towards ever-greater statistical sophistication continues unabated. Despite resistance from the old guard, population may also be developing a slightly different air; population as a field seems more willing to be aggressive and show that the population approach (usually thought of as a long-run approach) can produce fruitful results in the short run too.

The audience for an important session on recent fertility surveys—which in past years would have been a star attraction—was seemingly lost in the vast spaces of Ballroom 1, while the session on business demography, relegated to a smaller meeting room, attracted a standing-room-only audience of over 90. A plausible explanation for crowding in the latter, moderator Bickley Townsend of *American Demographics* observed, is that demographic positions are shrinking in academia and simultaneously opening up in corporations and demographic data shops. (A complainant in the audience commented that he thought what demographers in industry and consulting did wasn't necessarily demography. But as one participant put it later, demographers once looked askance at the idea of studying family planning data; times change.)

The 64 wide-ranging sessions covered many other subjects, including findings from the 1982 third cycle of the National Survey of Family Growth, which indicated that the rapid rise in U.S. teenagers' premarital sexual activity in the 1970s has not continued into the 1980s (reported William Pratt of the National Center for Health Statistics). The proportion of women aged 15-19 reporting that they had had premarital sexual intercourse leveled off at about 45 percent among white women and dropped from 66 to 60 percent among black women. The 1982 NSFG also confirmed that sterilization has now replaced the pill (which continues to decline) as the leading contraceptive method among American couples (as reported by Christine Bachrach of NCHS).

For two days prior to the PAA meeting proper, the 12th annual Psychosocial Workshop attracted some 60 psychologists, sociologists, and others interested in the human behavior that adds up to demographic statistics. The Workshop held sessions and took a field trip to the University

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Demography Getting Down to Business

"In the past 15 years, demography has emerged from the classroom to become a business tool, called demographics," says Cheryl Russell in "The Business of Demographics," PRB's *Bulletin* for June. If most Americans don't yet know how demographic trends affect their lives, consumer-based companies are fast learning that tracking the trends is vital to their health.

Enormous recent changes in U.S. population have splintered the mass market, explains demographer Russell, who is Research Director of American Demographics, Inc., publishers of three monthlies reporting on this new role for demography. Tracking population trends in the detail essential to businesses became feasible when the Census Bureau went electronic, beginning with the 1970 census. The small-area statistics from the Bureau's censuses and surveys needed for reliable market estimates and projections but too voluminous for printed reports became available to the public on computer tape.

Then came the private demographic data companies, quick to capitalize on plummeting computer costs and businesses' need for guidance through this assembly line of census statistics. Some critics protest the for-profit use of public data But by now, supplying businesses with the tailored demograpic information they need to produce the goods and services demanded by dozens of different new markets has itself become a $30-million-a-year industry, Russell reports.

Among the trends that have sliced America into these new markets, she cites the baby boom followed by the baby bust, the middle class's rising affluence and education, women's surge into the work force, and changing lifestyles and living arrangements. To keep up, business people have had to abandon the seat-of-the-pants way of doing business in favor of demographics that target, for example, the young, affluent, professional woman—plus psychographics, which zero in on, for example, the confident and upward-bound within that demographic segment.

Census Bureau statistics and services alone—though now widely available at low cost—can't match private data companies in meeting these needs, says Russell. To focus advertising, such a company can link a business's customer address list with census-based demographic estimates and projections for areas where those customers live. Or with similar tailored data it can pinpoint a business' most profitable site for future expansion. It can also design a survey to come up with statistics not available from public sources.

To supply the demographic staff experts that businesses now need, graduate schools have an information gap to bridge, says Russell. Forty-four of the nation's 88 graduate-level demography programs now offer business-oriented courses, but only a handful of a far larger number of business schools offer training in demography.

Business people are bound to become more familiar and at ease with demographics, however. Most Census Bureau data are now on tape which requires expensive mainframe computer technology to handle. But having the statistics available at the touch of a finger—through diskettes for personal computers or on-line hookup with large databases—"is where the demographic industry is headed," says Russell.

To those still not sure that all this is for the public good, she suggests that they imagine themselves back in the mass society of 1964 without the wealth of products and services to suit every taste that business demographics have helped to spawn. □

Additional copies of the 40-page *Population Bulletin*, "The Business of Demographics" (Vol. 39, No. 3), can be ordered from the Population Reference Bureau for $4.00 each; 2-10 copies, $3.00 each; 11-50 copies, $2.50 each; over 50, $2.00 each. Handling charges: Inside the U.S., add $1.00 to each order; outside the U.S., add 25 percent of the cost of Bulletins ordered.

Dede Hatch

But why two? Did Pepsi and Ma Bell have the same demographer?

Congress Debates Population Aid

Efforts by anti-abortion groups to eliminate U.S. funds for the UN Fund for Population Activites and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, because of concern about coerced abortions in China, proved unsuccessful during the U.S. House of Representative's May debate on the foreign aid authorization bill for Fiscal 1985. Attempts to cut international family planning funds, anticipated by congressional staff, never materialized.

A compromise amendment was adopted prohibiting direct U.S. support for China's population program and *any* U.S. contributions to international or private voluntary organizations involved in coercive abortion practices in China. Practically speaking, such an amendment would have no effect on present U.S. funding.

The original amendment, offered by Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) and lobbied by anti-abortion groups, would have eliminated *all* U.S. support for the UNFPA and IPPF unless they abandoned their programs in

Continued next page

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

"Hail fellow mercenaries!" exclaimed a participant (facetiously) to the audience at the PAA session on business demographics. And indeed there was the sense that demography's day may be at hand—if not today, soon. (See page 3 for a description of PRB's latest *Bulletin* on this subject.) With data shops opening up on every hand, with even the Central Intelligence Agency advertising for demographers, with *USA Today* featuring the sexy side of statistics, it would seem that one fine day demographers may toss aside their bowties, figuratively speaking, and join ecologists, economists, petrologists, genetic biologists, and other former academicians in the affluent mainstream of the U.S. economy. Someday demography may be appreciated so much, great personages won't dare brush their teeth until their gray-cloaked demographic wizard has whispered in their ear.

All well and good. But when population people leave the groves of academe, they might want to preserve some of its fine features, including communal, cooperative pursuit of demographic truth, the freedom, nay encouragement, to publish, and for that matter the liberty to circulate as a free agent in a community of free agents. Be a wizard if you choose, but—hold on to that bowtie.

—Art Haupt

Continued from previous page

China or unless the U.S. President certified that there were no coerced abortions in that country.

The compromise amendment is essentially a restatement of current law which already bans U.S. funding for abortion programs overseas. The U.S. provides no assistance to China either directly or through AID-funded U.S. organizations. Two international organizations — UNFPA and IPPF — provide modest contributions to noncontroversial aspects of the Chinese program (see following story). UNFPA is contributing less than $10 million a year, mainly for censuses, contraceptive development and manufacture, and academic training. The Chinese, by contrast, spend an estimated $1 billion a year on their family planning program. Official Chinese policy condemns both coerced abortion and female infanticide. Letters critical of these practices have appeared in several of China's state-controlled newspapers recently. Yet past directives from the central government to local officials have supported both abortions for those pregnant without permission and sterilization of couples with two children. Reports in the U.S. media suggest these directives have been carried out.

Congressional opponents have called the Chinese program "savage and barbaric" and have argued that contributions to international organizations which fund other parts of the Chinese population program indirectly represent support for all aspects of the effort.

Other attempts to limit international family planning assistance are expected when the full Senate debates its authorization bill in early June and when both houses tackle appropriations bills during the summer. So far, both houses have increased population funds for fiscal 1985 over the Reagan administration's initial request of $250 million: the House to $319 million and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to $272 million.□

A Correction: POPULATION TODAY would like to correct a misstatement in the May/June 1983 INTERCOM, page 3, which indicated that the UN Fund for Population Activities gave China $50 million "annually" in population assistance. In fact, that $50 million was a four-year aid package authorized in June 1980 by the UN Development Program, including $13.6 million for equipment for the 1982 census.□

SURVEY REPORT

Egypt

Egypt, a country which has been concerned about population growth for several decades, has recently released the World Fertility Survey taken in the country in 1980. With cultivatable land limited to the narrow Nile Valley and the Delta, Egypt's cities have experienced rapid growth with Cairo and Alexandria now containing about 60 percent of the total population.

Fertility has declined from about 7 children per woman in the early 1960s to about 5.3 in the late 1970s, according to the survey results. The decrease was, however, more gradual in 1975-1980 than it had been previously.

The use of contraception was found to be moderatly high in Egypt with about 32 percent of all women exposed to the risk of pregnancy practicing contraception. The vast majority of these women were found to be using a modern method, with the pill accounting for 68 percent of all users and the IUD 17 percent. Since 1977, the government has placed emphasis on direct measures designed to lower the country's birth rate and family planning services

Continued next page

ILO

Family planning class in Egypt.

Continued from page 4

are now available in 3,750 health units and 4,400 pharmacies in both urban and rural areas.

In principle, there is a health facility within 3 km of every village of 3,000 or more inhabitants. As a result 75 percent of the women surveyed said that they knew of a source of supplies or information. This situation was less prevalent in the rural areas with only 42 percent of the women surveyed expressing knowledge of a source of family planning services in rural Upper Egypt. □

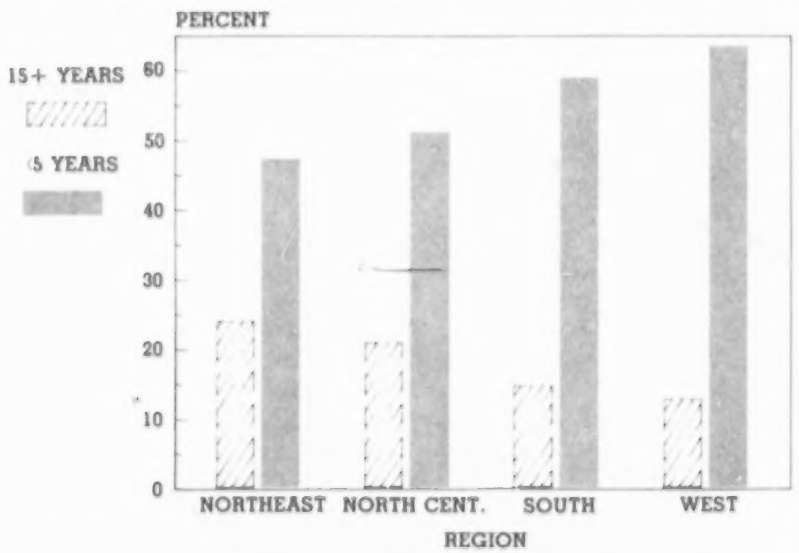
Tempest Brewing Over U.S. Delegation Head

Who will lead the U.S. delegation to the International Conference on Population? This question has taken on political ramifications with reports in the population community that the White House, which ultimately chooses, is seriously considering conservative James L. Buckley.

As a condition of his acceptance of the post, Buckley, a former Senator from New York and former Under-Secretary of State for Security Affairs, is reported to have asked for a recast statement of U.S. population policy to present to the conference, which is being held in Mexico City Aug. 6-13. Another condition is supposed to be the choice of Prof. Julian L. Simon as assistant at the conference. The appointment process remains under wraps at press time, with several members of Congress lobbying for a more moderate person, and a final announcement expected sometime in June.

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY . . .

Population Living in 1983 Neighborhood Less Than Five Years and 15 Years or More: U.S. Regions



U.S. interregional migration patterns have produced some clear disparities in neighborhood "turnover" among U.S. Regions. These differences can be quite important for businesses in that length of residence can result in different demand levels for various products: furniture, house and garden supplies might, for example, be more in demand in households just starting out, while households with longer residence are more likely to require home repair products and services.

Source: *American Profile*, Donnelley Marketing Information Services.

Litigation Still Lingers Over 1980 Census

Litigation spawned by the 1980 Census still grinds slowly on, four years after the taking of the census itself.

At that time the big issues were the New York and Detroit cases—alleging undercounts that would cause each city to be underrepresented when Congress was reapportioned, as well as shortchanged on Federal funding. In other types of suits, jurisdictions sued to obtain Census Bureau address lists (Essex Co., N.J., and Denver, Colo.) or challenged bureau methodology (Indiana)—52 major cases in all.

The Census Bureau has lost some legal rounds in lower courts, but it managed—barely—to release the official state counts on Dec. 31, 1980, as scheduled. And it has yet to ultimately lose a case. (If it ever does lose an important 1980 Census case, the decennial census operation-as-we-know-it could be profoundly affected.)

Of the original 52 cases, 25 are still active: the City of New York won its case in Federal District Court, only to have that decision overturned by a Federal Appeals Court, which ordered a new trial; that trial is now under way at the District level again in New York. Detroit similarly won at the District level, only to be overturned; the Supreme Court refused to hear the case, and that suit is effectively over.

Meanwhile, 23 other suits from jurisdictions, most alleging undercounts, are now consolidated for multidistrict processing in Federal District Court in Baltimore, where they await trial. By now, it's doubtful any of the litigants seriously seeks to overturn the 1980 count or reapportionment; rather, they wish to influence the way in which the 1990 Census is conducted, to give their region the best possible population from a political and revenue sharing viewpoint. □

The Sessions, Reunions, and Corridor Talk That Were PAA 1984

Continued from page 2

of Minnesota's Law Center for a session on sexuality, sex education, and sex behavior hosted by Minnesota's Family Study Center. The Association of Population/Family Planning Libraries and Information Centers (APLIC) also met beforehand, choosing Gloria Roberts as its president and discussing the setting up of a Population Reference Center at the upcoming International Conference on Population in Mexico City.

PRB photos by Art Haupt

Samuel H. Preston delivers the presidential address.

Perhaps this year's most star-studded panel was a session on Strategic Issues in Population: 1984. The appearance of Rep. James H. Scheuer (D-N.Y.) was cancelled as Scheuer had broken his shoulder, but his statement of support for population programs was read aloud to the audience. Nyle C. Brady, Senior Assistant Administrator of the Bureau of Science and Technology at the U.S. Agency for International Development, relayed the administration's support for population programs. Stephen Joseph of UNICEF said that the next demographic revolution might be the increase in child survival.

In a talk that especially captured the attention of PAAers (judging by favorable comments afterward in the corridors), McGeorge Bundy, of New York University, the fourth participant, took the long view, speaking on the double dimensions of population. One of these dichotomies was human nature vs. the human aspiration to do right, and he warned against mistaking the latter for the former in population issues (as, for example, had been done with the abortion issue, he said).

In questions afterward, Kingsley Davis of the Hoover Institution commented on what he termed the panel's lack of soulsearching about the world's population situation. Bundy commented that in regard to programs, there was a difference between Davis's analysis of the actual situation and what people would support. "You might be surprised," Davis said. "I might," Bundy responded.

That afternoon another session (on the Mexico City conference) also got into assessing the global population issue and how it has changed in the last decade. In particular, Jyoti Singh of UNFPA pointed out that many more governments were in on it, the issues had turned out to be much more complicated than people thought 10 years ago, and at least the world was facing population issues with many more achievements under its belt. The discussant, Jason Finkle of University of Michigan, commented at one point that at least North and South countries

In the corridors: Kingsley Davis

Federal Funding

Members of the program and fiscal staffs of the Center for Population Research, NICHD, will be in the Silver Lake Room to discuss grants and contracts.

May 3 and 4
9:00 a.m.-12 noon
and
1:30-5:00 p.m.

Informational materials will also be available.

were no longer at loggerheads over the issue, as had sometimes been the case.

"The Age Profile of Well-Being"

At the PAA business meeting Thursday evening, new *Demography* editor Ann Miller announced that the journal would expand the scope and variety of articles it publishes. PAA President Samuel H. Preston praised outgoing Secretary/Treasurer John Goodman for outstanding services to PAA during the past three years; Robert Lapham succeeds Goodman as of July 1, 1984. Annual dues for regular members are being increased $5.

The next night (Friday) was the traditional Presidential Address night and awards ceremony. Joan Herold presented the Dorothy S. Thomas Award (given annually for the best paper by a graduate student on migration or on demographic-social-economic interrelations) to Patrick Galloway of the University of California at Berkeley. Jane Menken and Cecil Sheps presented the Mindel C. Sheps award in mathen atical demography to Ronald Lee, thus completing what was referred to as "Berkeley's clean sweep."

In the corridors: Jay Siegel and Adrienne Allison

McGeorge Bundy on population dilemmas.

Continuing the meeting's concern with practical issues, Preston's Presidential Address (with the traditional graphs handout) presented the thesis that in the U.S. "conditions have deteriorated for children and improved dramatically for the elderly, and demographic change has been intimately involved in this reversal of expectations." "I daresay," he commented, "that if we passed through life backwards, adults would insist that conditions in childhood be made far more appealing," and in dismaying detail he related how resources have been redistributed toward the elderly end of the population spectrum, while childrearing responsibilities (and the cost of assuming them) are being returned to the family, to cope with as best it can. "We have made a set of private and public choices that have dramatically altered the age-profile of well-being," Preston said. His address suggested that these choices may have greater negative effects on American children than many people presently realize.

Minnesota Sidebars

Minneapolis, which received a record 99.5 inches of snow during the

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PAA Highlights

Continued from page 7

Winter of '83-'84, is now busy glassing-over and enclosing its newer downtown buildings in almost "moon colony" fashion, and up and down the mirrored corridors and elevators, across the enclosed pedestrian skyways, scurried the PAA attendees. The luxurious Amfac Hotel's three-story mall and triangular floor plan would have gladdened the heart of Buckminster Fuller; the fanciest rooms (and party venues) tended to be at the pointy corners.

Wednesday (opening day) saw the first North-West and North-South softball games, won handily by the West and South respectively. By that evening, most members had arrived, checked in, and headed for the popular beer and wine "mixer," a unifying event (free too) that allowed new arrivals to "land" at PAA and see who else was there before the subsequent day's dispersal to meetings and sessions. PAA wasn't just paper readings in ballrooms, though. Attendees had time to hunt down Polish restaurants, loiter in the balcony area overlooking the giant shopping atrium, rub elbows with colleagues in the corridors, and bend those same elbows at the many nighttime school parties (including Brown, Georgetown, Penn-Princeton, Texas, etc.). A handful of PAA baseball fans were privileged to be there the night the Oakland A's Dave Kingman hit a one-in-a-million infield pop-up that never came down. (It exited the Metrodome through a vent in the roof and was ruled a ground-rule double.)

At the crack of dawn Saturday, the final day, a field of about a dozen disported in the 6th annual fun run. During the sessions that morning, you could practically hear the fizzing of attendees' Alka-Seltzer, and checkout time had its usual Retreat-from-Moscow air. But after three days of total immersion, PAA members had done it all. They had delivered their papers, checked in with their colleagues, and gotten a fix on their field as of 1984. They could look back on a fruitful three days, and some memorable moments.

One night, the Psychosocial Workshop visited the Dudley Riggs improvisational theater; five actors improvising skits from characters, themes, and props solicited from the audience.

One of the actors asked for a book title. Came a voice from the audience: *"Methods and Materials of Demography!"*

Minneapolis knew PAA was there. Next year it's Boston's turn. □.

—compiled by Janice Beattie, Leon F. Bouvier, Cary Davis, Art Haupt, and Jean van der Tak

Monitoring to Prevent Abortion in Romania

Romania has announced is adding further stringent legal measures against abortion, including once-a-month government monitoring of pregnancies to term. While some world countries have stronger anti-abortion laws on the books, none has taken anything like Romania's activist legal steps to prevent the practice.

In a March 1984 speech, President Nicolae Ceauscescu outlined a three-part program to increase Romania's low fertility: a lowering of the minimum marriage age to 15 for women; a 5 percent surtax on single people 25 years old or older (a tax is already levied on childless couples); and medical screeenings for pregnancy of women in their 20s.

Once found to be pregnant, a woman will be periodically monitored to ensure the pregnancy continues. Miscarriages will be investigated, and any illegal abortions will result in prison terms for both the woman and the physician.

The reasons for this policy are pronatalist. In the early 1960s Romania had the world's most permissive abortion policies. But in 1966, worried by the country's dropping fertility rate, Romanian authorities abruptly reversed the policy (see INTERCOM September 1980 for details). But abortion rates have been creeping up since that time (abortion is still allowed for various medical reasons, and the official 1983 abortion ratio was 1.3 abortions for every live birth). Hence the announcement of new, stricter measures. Abortion Research Notes, published by the Transnational Family Research Institute, will publish further details on the new Romanian policy shift. In the meantime, it's worth noting that Romania's tough anti-abortion enforcement proposal are almost a mirror of monitoring methods used in China's rigorous family planning program, in which abortion is encouraged for women with unauthorized pregnancies. □

India Building Border Fence

A long-running dispute between India and Bangladesh over illegal immigration into India has resulted in the construction of the world's longest fence. The building of a 1,500 mile barbed wire fence on the Assam border continues, at times to the sound of gunfire between Indian and Bangladeshi troops.

3,000 persons died during elections in Assam State last year; the principal issue in the violence was the loss of jobs to illegal aliens from Bangladesh. Presently, the population of Bangladesh, a relatively small country, is growing at over 3 percent per year, meaning that Bangladesh adds 3 million persons annually to its present 100 million population. □

Leslie Corsa, Jr. 1920-1984

Leslie Corsa, Jr., a pioneer in family planning programs and long-time director of the University of Michigan's Center for Population Planning, died Mar. 2, 1984. He was 63.

Corsa, a physician and public health specialist, turned to family planning in the 1950s and in 1965 became the director of the Michigan Center. During his service, the Center (and later population dept.) inaugurated a wide range of graduate teaching programs, research, and service projects at Michigan and around the world. □

WORLD FOOD NEWS

The extension to 200 miles of national jurisdiction to cover fishing by more than 100 coastal states has created new opportunities for fisheries management and development, especially among the developing nations of the world. It also raises new questions and problems—and marks a dramatic change from the days when fishing vessels of all nations had free access to the majority of coastal fisheries resources. To address these and other issues, the FAO holds a World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development in Rome in June 1984. Edouard Saouma, FAO's Director-General, stated that "the World Conference will be the first international step to examine the practical realities of fisheries management in the context of the new legal regime of the era." It focuses on three specific areas:

- developing individual and joint strategies and action programs to increase the contribution of fisheries to the world's food supplies and to nutritional, social and economic goals;
- improving the ability of developing countries to manage and develop their fisheries;
- promoting international collaboration in obtaining these benefits through better cooperation between developing and developed countries, and among developing countries themselves.

FAO has set two specific goals for the World Fisheries Conference: (a) to establish and agree upon an integrated fisheries management and development strategy at global, regional and national levels; and (b) to establish action programs to support this strategy.

At present the annual world fish catch stands at approximately 75 million tons. About 55 million tons of that total is fish produced for human consumption. The remainder is used to provide feed for poultry and pigs.

Fish account for nearly one-quarter of the world's supply of animal protein. In a number of developing countries, fish and fish products make up more than 50 percent of total animal protein supplies. Almost 90 percent of the world catch comes from the sea within the 200-mile coastline limit. Production from inland waters has been growing slowly but steadily and now exceeds 7 million tons per year. □

World Food News is prepared by the North American Liaison Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

FAO photo by F. Mattioli

Bangladesh fish farming.

Population Update

Estimated United States Population:

As of March 1, 1984	235,710,000
As of March 1, 1983	233,567,000

The above estimates include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 950.

Estimated World Population:

As of June 1984	4,755,000,000
Annual Growth	82,000,000

Estimated by extrapolation of the mid-1984 population given on the 1984 World Population Data Sheet.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: January 1984

Item	12 months ending with January					
	Number		Rate			
	1984	1983	1984	1983	1982	1981
Live births	3,623,000	3,700,000	15.5	16.0	15.9	15.9
Deaths	2,013,000	1,992,000	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.8
Natural increase	1,610,000	1,708,000	6.9	7.4	7.3	7.1
Marriages	2,445,000	2,494,000	10.5	10.8	10.6	10.6
Divorces	1,174,000	1,182,000	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.2
Infant deaths	39,300	41,600	10.9	11.3	11.6	12.5
Population base (in millions)	...	...	233.9	231.7	229.5	227.3

Note. Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births. Rates are based on revised population estimates from the 1980 Census.

Source. Monthly Vital Statistics Report (Vol. 33, No. 1) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"On Further Quantifying Words"

Your "Editor's Desk" column in the March 1984 issue is an excellent idea, as there is so much disagreement on the meanings of your boldface words. And I thank you for your "Thomlinson says" comment: "There's a time to write 5.5; a time to write 5½; and a time to write 'about five.'" I wish I had thought of such a succinct summary with its literacy allusion.

I disagree on one of your entries, however: I would define "a couple" as "2 or 3" and add that often it means "exactly 2" (husband and wife, dance partners, and so forth). I suspect that if a group of more than 2 people in a bar ordered "a couple of beers," they would confuse the bartender, who probably thinks that "a couple of drinks" means "2.000."

I would add to your list the word "handful," which surely should mean "about 5 [fingers]." It also can mean a large number of small things ("add a handful of flour"), regrettable few ("a mere handful"), or quite a bundle ("that brat is a handful").

I also suggest that "numerous" means more items than "many." In some instances, "many" might mean "nearly half." For "more than half," we have "most."

Sincerely,
Ralph Thomlinson
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TAKE A NUMBER...

California: Northern Hemisphere's Second Largest Country? It would be if it were a country, according to Census Bureau population, estimates. California passed Canada in population sometime in 1982 and, according to 1983 estimates, Californians outnumber Canadians 25.2 million to 24.9 million.

Looking at Some Population Numbers: A quiet study of some of the rates in publications such as PRB's *World Population Data Sheet* yields some thought-provoking comparisons. About two-thirds of the more developed countries' natural increase occurs in just two countries, the U.S. and the USSR. Iraq, with a population of 15 million adds a half million each year; and India's 25 million annual births alone outnumber the populations of 170 of the world's roughly 215 countries.

Latest Rates from Europe: After several years of relatively stable birth rates, a number of European countries have reported sudden drops in their crude birth rates for 1983. According to the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics,* West Germany's crude birth rate, which had held at 10.1 births per 1,000 population for three years, dropped to 9.7 in 1983. France's decline was more dramatic: from 14.7 in 1982 to 13.7 in 1983. Other countries' 1982/1983 rates were: Belgium, 12.2/11.9; Denmark, 10.3/9.9; Hong Kong, 16.5/15.4; Malta, 16.0/15.0; and, Netherlands, 12.0/11.8. Curiously, this parallels a similar sharp drop in the U.S. from 16.0 to 15.5 in the same period. Can't just be "Europessimism."

Refugee admissions: The U.S. receives refugees from all over the world, as reflected in figures collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In March 1984, totals ranged from 2,793 initial admissions whose nationality was Vietnamese, to such low figures as 1 each from Guatemala, Lesotho, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. (The United Kingdom? That's the nationality of the refugee, not the country or origin, which was, in this case, quite different.)

addenda...

Chicken Demographics: The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has released the 1982-1983 marketing-year chicken statistics. The chicken population has a unique set of dynamics due to farmers' strict control over the lives of chickens. Layers (egg-types) with an average life span of 14 to 16 months live longer than any other type of chicken. (The sex ratio would be near 100, but except for a few roosters, all male chickens are destroyed at birth.)

378,609,000 layers inhabited the U.S. on Dec. 1, 1982. The following year, 272,451,000 new layers were raised. Meanwhile, a total of 40,825,000 layers died, 9,345,000 were eaten on farms, and another 236,306,000 were sold. Combining these figures, the USDA computed the chicken population of Dec. 1, 1983 to be 364,584,000. More chicken statistics may be found in the USDA statistical reporting service report number POU 2-384.

CURRENT READINGS

PRB welcomes materials on population topics for possible inclusion in Current Readings. Publishers may address review copies to Book Review Editor, POPULATION TODAY, Population Reference Bureau, 2213 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

SEX AND DESTINY: THE POLITICS OF HUMAN FERTILITY by Germaine Greer. New York: Harper and Row, 1984. $19.95

Perplexity and sadness were the basic reactions upon reading Greer's newest book. Perplexity in part because of the difficulty in relating its two sections (one could argue that "Sex and Destiny" is one monograph; "The Politics of Human Fertility" is another). Sadness at the lack of population knowledge displayed by the author, so well respected as one of the early names of the feminist movement, who attempts to become an instant expert in an area outside her own expertise.

Greer is convinced that the low fertility in the developed world reflects a hatred of children. Her arguments do not convince the reader; it could equally be argued (with equal uprovability) that the career woman who at age 35 or even 40, interrupts that career to "voluntarily have a child or two" is expressing more love than the woman who with no planning whatever has 10 to 12 births.

Greer is particularly disturbed by demographers (of all people!). She does not comprehend what demography is all about. Technical errors and innaccurate conclusions abound. On page 1, for example, Greer ascribes the Romanian government's outlawing abortions in 1966 in part to the increasing *senility* of the population! Elsewhere, she confuses birth rates and growth rates—a common error among the media, but not to be expected by one passing as a scholar.

Greer's final chapter is entitled "The Myth of Overpopulatin." Yet not once does she defuse the myth. Rather being content to devote three pages to criticizing Paul Ehrlich's famous paragraph on the New Delhi taxi driver in his *Population Bomb*. (Again, it's all been said before). And with the exception of one reference to the population of India, not a single number of any kind is cited in the entire chapter. Such an achievement should be the envy of all population writers!

In sum, Greer's latest publication, borne upon a wave of publicity unusual for a book on population questions, is a disappointment—not so much because of her after thought-provoking opinions, but because of her lack of any attempt at objectivity. Nevertheless, she has some interesting views that should be seriously considered.

—Leon F. Bouvier

THE STUDY OF POPULATION: ELEMENTS, PATTERNS, PROCESSES, by George A. Schnell and Mark Stephen Monmonier. Columbus, Ohio: Charles E. Merrill, Publishing Co., 1983. 371 pages. $24.95 ISBN 0-675-20046-6.

Geography professors have remained faithful to the inclusion of population dynamics in their curricula—as demonstrated by the regular appearance of new textbooks on the subject—in a time when many other disciplines have moved on to other "crisis" areas. *The Study of Population* is a good addition to this field. With the exception of the two chapters on the spatial distribution of population, this text could serve college students in courses other than population geography. It covers the traditional subjects in the study of population—population size, composition, distribution, and the components of change—in addition to some nontraditional areas, such as resources and the environment, and population policies. The many charts, graphs, and tables throughout the text serve the reader well in explaining and illustrating population concepts and phenomena.

—Patricia Cancellier

A GEOGRAPHY OF THE THIRD WORLD by J.P. Dickenson et al. Lndon and New York: Methuen, 1983. 283 pages. $11.95 ISBN 0-416-74170-3.

Eight colleagues from the University of Liverpool have joined together to describe current geographical approaches to the study of the less developed countries. In their attempt to cover such broad areas of study, they mostly cover general topics, using random statistics from different countries to support their discussions. In the chapters on Urban and Development planning, however, they give specific case studies of Mexico City, Brazil, India, Papua New Guinea, and Cuba.

This book provides useful insight into the population structure, the rural sector, urbanization and industrialization, patterns of internal linking, development planning, as well as the external relationships of Third World countries.

—Bridget Carroll

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

THE ABORTION DISPUTE AND THE AMERICAN SYSTEM edited by Gilbert Y. Steiner, Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1983. 103 pages $6.95.

THE BIRTH CONTROL MOVEMENT IN AMERICAN SOCIETY: From Private Vice to Public Virtue by James Reed, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1984. 455 pages.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL: 1982, Current Population Reports p-60, No. 144. Washington, DC: Bureau of the Census, 1984. 215 pages.

COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD AND THEIR LEADERS YEARBOOK 1984, Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1984. 1724 pages (2 volumes). $80.00/set.

CURBING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION (a staff paper) by Milton D. Morris and Albert Mayio, Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1982, 28 pages.

DATA BASES FOR MORTALITY MEASUREMENT, by Dept. of International. Economic & Social Affairs, New York: United Nations, 1984. 164 pages.

THE DECLINE IN BREASTFEEDING: An Analysis of the Role of the Nestle Corporation from Two Perspectives, by Carolyn E. Campbell, Cornell International Nutrition Monograph Series No. 11 (1982). Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University. 59 pages. $3.00.

THE ELDERLY POPULATION'S CHANGING SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION: Patterns of Change since 1960 by Kevin F. McCarthy, Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation, 1983. 57 pages.

EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS & THE URBAN LABOR MARKET IN DEVELOPING NATIONS by Sabbiah Kannappan, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, Graduate School of Business Administration, 1983.

A FALSE FERTILITY TRANSITION: The Case of American Blacks, by Paul Wright and Peter Pirie. Papers of the East-West Population Institute, No. 90, February 1984.

THE GERMAN-AMERICANS by La Vern Jo Rippley, New York: University Press of America, 1984. 271 pages, $11.75.

IMMIGRANTS IN THE VALLEY: Irish, Germans and Americans in the Upper Mississippi Country, 1830-1860 by Mark Wyman, Chicago: Nelson-Hall Publishers, 1984. 257 pages, $35.95.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DATA REFERENCE GUIDE. A 14 X 35 inch wallchart showing the availability of health survey statistics for 15 more developed countries. Available free from National Center for Health Statistics. International Statistical Office, 3700 East-West Hwy., Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

POPULATION TRENDS IN GREAT BRITAIN: Their Policy Implications by David Hubback, London: The Simon Population Trust, 1983. 39 pages, £1.50.

From the President's Desk

Dear Policymaker:

The first major attempt to reform U.S. immigration law in 30 years is now being debated in Congress. A House bill sponsored by Representative Romano Mazzoli (D-Ky.) seeks to control the flow of illegal immigrants into the U.S. and grant legal status to many millions of undocumented workers and their families now in this country. The issue of immigration and its impact is also of current concern to lawmakers in a number of states.

In last month's issue of POPULATION TODAY, we reviewed the status of the Mazzoli bill and a new "Hispanic alternative" bill introduced by Representative Edward Roybal (D-Ca.).

Immigration is only one of many population-related issues with which you as a policymaker are likely to be concerned. The Population Reference Bureau, for 54 years the leading source of unbiased information on demographic changes and their implications, is available to help keep you informed on key population-related issues. We take pride in our ability to translate complex demographic concepts and issues into clear, concise form, readily usable by policymakers. During the past year, in addition to POPULATION TODAY and its predecessor, INTERCOM, we mailed you two issues of *Population Trends and Public Policy*, one dealing with current movement of population within the U.S., the other with the effect of population changes on resources and the environment worldwide.

During the coming months additional reports will be coming to you on "Public Policy Impact of Retirees Living Longer"; movement of the elderly into and out of the Sunbelt states; and the relationship between population growth and economic development worldwide.

In addition to our publications, we maintain a specialized information service designed to respond to population-related questions of policymakers. We invite you to call us at (202) 785-4664; write us; or have your representative visit us.

In a month or so we will be asking you to respond to a few questions aimed at discovering how we can be more helpful. However, we would appreciate hearing from you at any time. Your advice is important to us.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Worrall

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President
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